

Iowa Department of Human Services

Offer #401-HHS-014: CCUSO

Contact Information: Jeanne Nesbit, jnesbit@dhs.state.ia.us, (515)281-8580

This offer includes the following appropriations:

Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders, General Administration

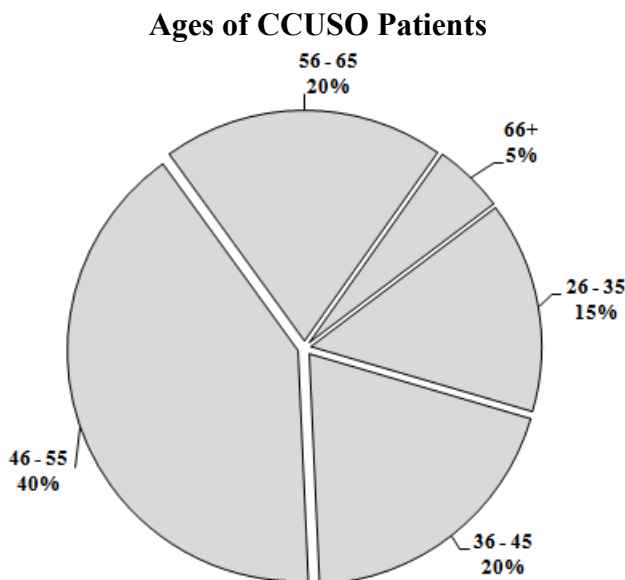
Program Description:

Who:

The Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO) provides a secure, long term, and highly structured environment for the treatment of sexually violent predators. Patients have served their prison terms but in a separate civil trial were found likely to commit further violent sexual offenses and are therefore committed to CCUSO.

Admission to the CCUSO program involves multiple professional and legal procedural reviews, and is only for those individuals who have been convicted of a sexually violent offense and suffer from a mental abnormality that predisposes them to commit sexually violent offenses.

At the beginning of SFY 2011 there were 80 patients in the program. DHS projects that there will be 80 patients by the end of SFY 2011 and 80 patients by the end of SFY 2012¹. Of the current CCUSO population, 25% is 56 years of age or older.



¹ There have been delays in the commitment hearings over the last couple of fiscal years that have resulted in a temporary decrease in the number of admissions to the program. As many of these hearings are nearing the exhaustion of appeal options, it is possible that the program will experience a more normalized rate of admissions (6-7) over the next several years.

Of the current population, 81% are currently receiving prescriptions to address medical conditions, and 55% are receiving prescriptions (not including antidepressants) to address psychiatric conditions. Many CCUSO patients receive treatments for arthritis, diabetes, obesity, liver failure, hypertension, high cholesterol, and other related conditions. Additionally, 58% of the population suffers from heart disease.

There are currently eight patients in the fifth, discharge phase of the treatment program. Twelve patients have been dismissed from the program on judicial orders or trials.

What:

The five-phase treatment program includes:

- Group and individual therapy, including victim empathy and strategies to prevent relapse
- Educational programming for patients who do not have the basic skills needed to fully participate in therapy
- Physiological assessments to measure and verify results of treatment strategies
- Transition and discharge planning, and supervision for patients who have completed all five treatment phases, if so ordered by a court.

CCUSO utilizes ten treatment areas to assess progress:

Treatment Areas	
1. Disclosure	6. Cognitive Coping Skills
2. Insight	7. Sexual Behavior
3. Personal Victimization	8. Relapse Prevention
4. Victim Empathy	9. Intimacy Skills
5. Leisure Skills/Hygiene	10. Problem Solving

PHASE I (12.5% of current population) – Orientation and Assessment: Patients develop a clear understanding of program expectations and rules and undergo complete psychological testing. In order to progress to the next phase, patients must admit to some sexual offense or have a “clean polygraph”, complete relaxation and basic cognitive skills training, and demonstrate good behavior for 30 days.

PHASE II (56.2% of current population) – Core Phase: The goal of this phase is education. Patients complete four quarters of classes that teach the concepts and skills to help them control sexual impulses. In order to progress to the next phase, patients must pass polygraph exams relating to sexual disorders, demonstrate good behavior for 90 days, and have no ratings (in each of the ten treatment areas) lower than 3 out of a possible 8 on their last review.

PHASE III (15.0% of current population) – Advanced Phase: the goal of this phase is successful application of basic principles and insights. Patients work on applying the principles and concepts learned in Phase II and on achieving the goals established in their individual treatment plan. In order to progress to the next phase, patients must pass “specific offense polygraphs” if requested, complete “Victim Sheets” and “Victim Letters,” demonstrate good behavior for four months, and have no ratings (in each of the ten treatment areas) lower than 5 out of a possible 8 on their last review.

PHASE IV (6.3% of current population) – Honor Phase: The goal of this phase is maturation and refinement of skills in preparation for release. Patients are expected to demonstrate a high level of cooperation, insight, motivation, and application of previously taught principles, should model appropriate behavior for other patients and be able to facilitate group discussions. To progress to the next phase, patients must complete a detailed relapse prevention plan, pass a polygraph exam relating to sexual behaviors, demonstrate good behavior for six months, and have no ratings (in each of the ten treatment areas) less than 8 out of a possible 8 on their last review.

PHASE V (10.0% of current population) – Transition Phase: The goal of this phase is successful completion of transition from CCUSO to the community; promotion to phase five requires an order by the committing court. The first part of phase five requires the patient to live in the CCUSO secure apartment setting within the facility. Patients will gradually be given increasing opportunities to go on passes and live in progressively less restrictive settings with close monitoring and clinical assessment of progress.

Having met the requirements for successful completion of the first part of phase five, patients must maintain housing in a halfway house or residential facility outside the CCUSO grounds for six months to one year without violating rules or their relapse prevention plan, successfully maintain employment, attend weekly support therapy groups and individual counseling, fulfill all requirements of the release contract for at least two years, and pass random physiological assessments requested by transitional counselors.

Having met the requirements for successful completion of the second part of phase five, CCUSO staff will recommend release to the committing court. Final discharge from the program requires an order by the committing court.

The transition program is an essential aspect of treatment as it provides patients with the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have learned in a real life setting while under supervision. As patients demonstrate that they can be in the community under supervision without showing signs of increased risk for sexual offending, they are given the opportunity to have less formal supervision until they finally reach the point of being no longer “more likely than not” to commit another sexual offense – the statute requirement for discharge.

As the program continues to mature, phase five is projected to become more resource intensive as an increasing number of patients successfully complete the first four phases and/or the courts place patients into the transitional phase. Providing the necessary supervision to insure public safety on trips into the community, travel to and from worksites, etc. requires more staff time as staff may accompany a single transition patient into the community, whereas the same staff could monitor several patients on a living unit.

Providing these opportunities to patients to demonstrate their newly-acquired skills in the community is a legal and treatment-required activity and has been a cornerstone in State and Federal court decisions that have upheld the constitutionality of this and other civil commitment programs.

How:

Service Delivery

CCUSO provides services within a 24/7 secure facility and has a total of 89 staff (FTEs) in SFY 2011 with salaries of approximately \$6.3 million.

Service Support

Each facility receives technical assistance and guidance from staff in General Administration regarding corporate oversight and program support, financial accountability, infrastructure, legal services, and information technology.

Results Achieved:

Result:	SFY 2010 Actual Level	SFY 2011 Projected Level	SFY 2012 Offer Level
Number committed on June 30 th	80	80	80
Patients who demonstrate progress in treatment by moving to next phase	26%	30%	30%

Sustaining service delivery assumes the level of funding requested in the offer as well as full funding of salary adjustment. If funding is insufficient in either area, results to be achieved will need to be modified to reflect the impact.

To sustain existing services this offer assumes that status quo as well as all one-time funding such as the cash reserve fund, underground storage tank fund and government stabilization and stimulus dollars are fully replaced. If funding is insufficient, results to be achieved will be modified to reflect the impact. The lack of backfilling these one-time funds will also mean reductions in service delivery.

A class action lawsuit was filed related to numerous aspects of the program including security measures, treatment quality, patient progression in treatment, patient rights, medical care, etc. CCUSO has to provide sufficient opportunity for patients to progress in treatment, which requires adequate security and treatment staffing levels. If these levels are not maintained, the program risks being considered unconstitutional and subject to court action that could result in sexually violent patients being released into the community, increased program costs and monetary damages.

Impact of Proposed Budget on Results:

Current Results:

This offer provides access to highly specialized, extended-term treatment services in a secure residential setting designed to address the specific treatment needs of civilly committed individuals and provide motivation for behavior change. There are five treatment phases providing cognitive-behavior therapy as well as a five-level system that provides increased privileges and responsibilities to motivate patients to participate in treatment and to remain free of problematic behaviors.

Legal Requirements:**Federal:**

None.

State:

The Department of Human Services is required to operate the CCUSO program in order to provide a secure treatment program for sexually violent predators as mandated by the provisions of Chapter 229A of the Code of Iowa. The statute requires that DHS provide treatment services within a secure setting to all individuals who are civilly committed to the program as violent sexual predators. The Department does not have the authority to deny admissions. The ability to provide adequate treatment services has been a critical factor in both State and Federal Court decisions that upheld the constitutionality of civil commitment programs for violent sexual predators